

**BURNT STORE ISLES ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
August 1, 2014**

Officers Present

Directors Present

President – Gene Murtha	Social – Judy Vanderweele
Secretary – Mary Drummond	Community Standards – Jayne Perkins
	Security – Donald Clark
	Special Projects – Doug Paquin
	Membership – Lori Gurr
	E-Communications – Don Hallman
	Planning – Brian Stirling

Officers Absent

Directors Absent

Vice-President – Frank Wiechec	Past President – Doug Rhees
Treasurer – Connie Higgins	Legal Liaison – Mirko Vlcko

The BSIA Board meeting held on August 1, 2014 at Twin Isles Country Club was called to order by President Gene Murtha at 9:00 am. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was held to account for Officers and Directors present. Two new BSIA members, Kay and Gene Rhoad, attended the meeting.

The minutes of the July 11, 2014 Board meeting and the July 29, 2014 General Membership Meeting were approved and accepted. Motion to approve was made by Lori and seconded by Don H. *The minutes will be posted on the Burnt Store Isles Association website.*

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Gene. Connie’s July 28 financial report was accepted as submitted and filed for audit.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

General Membership Meeting July 29

Gene counted 86 people in attendance at the Burnt Store Isles Presbyterian Church for the combination Meet the Candidates night, which was open to the public, and the General Membership Meeting. The format worked well except for a few candidates who did not appear to speak to the group. Gene thanked Judy and her Social committee for their assistance in setting up the room and the refreshments. Our next General Membership

meeting will be held on Nov. 11 at this church again. That day is Veteran's Day, and it was noted that something special should be done to acknowledge our veterans. Gene plans to ask Gary Brewster to give an update at the Nov. 11 meeting since there seems to be a lot of interest in the canal lock widening and dredging of the rim canal.

Monument Signage and Newspaper Ad for July 29 meeting

Doug P. reported that the signs advertising the General Membership meeting on the entrance monuments are now put away until needed for the next meeting. He received a few comments that the font was too small to read, but the signs were good otherwise. There was a lot of information on the signs. Because of the Sunshine Law, Gene placed a newspaper ad to make the Meet the Candidates portion of the meeting open to the public.

BSIA July Newsletter

The July newsletter went out as expected. Gene said that he would like to see each of us making newsletter contributions. Lori noted that she had written an article for this last newsletter and it was not included at publication. Charlie Council is willing to continue as editor for the remainder of the year.

Increasing the BSIA Legal Reserve

The Board voted to increase the legal reserve fund by \$5,000 at its July 11 meeting. This will be put before the membership for a vote at the Nov. 11 General Membership meeting. This motion to restrict funds requires approval of the membership because it is not a budgeted item. We will also be electing officers and directors at that meeting. There will be a need for voting cards at that meeting. Lori will have a list of active members as of Nov. 11 at that meeting to be used as a checklist for disbursing voting cards. Judy said that she has cards – no reason to purchase any for the meeting.

Nominating Committee for 2015 Board

No one has stepped forward to volunteer to assume the role of Nominating Committee Chairperson for next year's Board. A Chairperson needs to be appointed by Sept. 15. Gene thinks the bylaws require a committee of 4 people. Don H. suggested that he advertise on the website Bulletin Board that we are looking for people to head up and serve on this committee in addition to needing people who are interested in filling the Board positions which will be open for 2015. Members can nominate other members or express an interest in filling open positions themselves. Gene or Don H. will also comb through prior survey results for names of members who expressed interest in running for a board position or serving on a committee. There will be a number of positions to fill. Positions open for certain will be President, Standards Director, and Planning Director. It is possible that a couple of others will be open, also. We need to hear from Don C. and Frank regarding their interest in continuing to serve on the Board. There was discussion about the need for Board Officer positions to have two-year terms rather than one-year

because there is a learning curve for each position that needs to be taken into account. There is a process described in the BSIA bylaws as to what is required to change the term of office for the Officer positions. The Board hopes to be able to put this up for a vote at the November Annual Meeting to change the Officer terms to two years for each position.

November Annual Meeting

The Board approved the November 11 date for the Annual Meeting to be held at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church. The Social committee has already reserved the church for that date, and it will cost \$200 to rent the facility for the meeting. Gene said that he is planning to ask Gary Brewster to give a canal update to the membership at this meeting. There is talk about dredging all of Alligator Creek in addition to the rim canal because of silting that is causing shallow water, and there was some discussion at our Board meeting about sea wall repair and the poor condition of some of the walls in the BSI canal system. Don H. stated that we have a permanent link on the BSIA website to the CAC so that interested parties may see what actions are being made by that group.

Credit Card Processing Update

Don H., Lori, and Connie have a meeting planned for Aug.4 to discuss the use of credit cards for payment of annual membership dues.

Painting of Monuments and Condition of Islands

The entryway monuments were painted professionally in the last couple of weeks and the work paid for by the Association. They look much better now. Doug P. spoke to someone at the City who told him that it is the Association's responsibility to maintain the landscaping on the islands at the Monaco and Madrid entrances. He was told that sometimes the City works on the landscaping and sometimes the workers don't touch it. Doug P. said that he considers it to be a safety issue for our members to be out there doing work on the islands. Gene said that he would work with Doug to get a more acceptable agreement with the City regarding maintenance.

Cul-de-Sac Maintenance

Doug P. says that if a cul-de-sac is abandoned the City will strip and then mulch the area. No one was certain how the City defines "abandonment" in regard to cul-de-sacs. Gene thinks he and Doug P. need to have a discussion with Howard Kunik regarding these areas. Don C. suggested that awards be issued to caretakers of the most beautifully-maintained cul-de-sacs, or possibly a plaque could be placed at the cul-de-sac with the caretaker's name on it to acknowledge their neighborhood beautification efforts. Some thought will be put into this. The City requires that the community has the name of a contact person for each of the 54 cul-de-sacs in BSI. Doug P. said that he would get a list of the cul-de-sacs so Don H. can put the information on the website and ask for names of resident volunteers who are willing to help maintain each unassigned and ill-maintained

area and to be BSI contacts for the City. This will also allow us to know who is currently doing maintenance of each cul-de-sac.

Standards Issues

Jayne says that parking on lawns (on a person's own property) is an issue in BSI. She is not aware of anything in our deed restrictions that would prevent this. The deed restrictions prohibit parking in the swale of a driveway or in the City right-of-way. Brian thinks there is a section of the City Code that restricts parking to paved areas of a residence. Jayne receives inquiries from people considering purchasing property in BSI regarding whether or not pick-up trucks are permitted to be parked in the neighborhood because our deed restrictions state that trucks are not allowed. We need to get clarity regarding the definition of a truck, and Don C. suggested that we request that Mirko communicate with the City's attorney to have some wording that is more specific than just "truck". Political signs are in a number of yards because of upcoming elections. They are allowed by Federal law during a specified period prior to an election, and a resident is allowed two size-restricted signs per property by City Code.

Properties in Bank Foreclosure and Property Appearance

We do not have information when property sells or is put into foreclosure. Real estate agents have these facts available to them. Gene suggested that perhaps we should consider filling a Board position with a realtor so that we can have access to information, or we could ask a real estate agent to act as a liaison to the Board. Brian said that perhaps we could entice a realtor to act in this capacity by offering a free blurb or ad in our newsletter in return.

Membership Initiatives

Lori reports there are 500 member properties (939 total members) in BSIA. Lori is pleased that we have added 28 new households since the beginning of the year. We will not know whether we have lost any members until membership renewal at the end of the year since this is the first period in which a 2-year membership was offered.

Macedonia Sidewalk Project

Gene expects the City to remove the proposed Macedonia Dr. sidewalk project from the 1% optional sales tax list of projects at the City Council meeting scheduled for Aug. 13. The project will remain on the City Comp list, as it was state mandated that it that list be compiled a number of years ago. This has been a learning experience for the Board.

Travel Club

Gene and his wife, Theresa, would like to begin a travel club in BSI. Tom Williams, an author who lives in BSI, is currently doing a lecture series about World War I, since it is the 100-year anniversary of that historical event. Gene thinks we should ask him do a

presentation in our community and is wondering if it should be under the auspices of a travel club. Gene has asked the social committee to discuss this at their next meeting. Tom's presentation could be paired with wine and cheese for a possible event to be offered to the membership.

Communication to Entire Membership

Gene said that he personally called all of the people who he is aware of that are without email contact to let them know about the July 29 General Membership meeting. He wonders if we should be doing a better job of communicating with this subgroup of our membership. Lori's committee might be able to divide up the group and make calls to these members when there is some event of which they should be informed.

School Supply Drive

Gene displayed a photo that ran in the Sun newspaper showing him and some of our members with our donations to the school supply drive. He thanked the Social Committee for all of their efforts toward the drive which benefits Charlotte County students.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Security:

Don C. says that he needs to change the header for items that are now broadcast as Security Alerts because they are sent out after the fact. They are more informational than anything else. We do not want to give members a false sense of security and do not want to be in the position of not informing people of a critical situation. Punta Gorda's Code Red program is the one that will pass critical information to residents. Don H. suggested that we put a disclaimer on the informational emails that are sent with security or safety content.

Social Committee:

Judy spent a nominal amount for supplies for the July 29 meeting and paid \$200 to Burnt Store Presbyterian Church for the use of the meeting room. She will be sending these invoices to Connie for reimbursement. Judy has several members leaving her committee at the end of the year because they have served for a number of years. She is looking for new committee members, so please pass along to her names of anyone you know to have interest so she can contact them.

Planning:

Brian shared the draft of his Planning Director duties description. This position, as defined by Brian, encompasses a wide range of duties and goal-setting relative to the

Board and a need for awareness and communication of pertinent activities of local government and community development. Gene would like to defer determining a final description of this Board position until the Board's October meeting.

In thinking about how better to communicate with those members without email connections, Mary suggested that we should come up with some sort of buddy system where those members would be contacted by someone (a neighbor, a friend or another caring member) who would keep those members in the loop about BSIA's activities. A printed and mailed quarterly newsletter is not sufficient in this electronic era.

The next meeting will be Sept. 5th at 9:00 at Twin Isles Country Club.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary C. Drummond
Secretary